

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated July 22, 2009 within three months. Claims 1-15 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-15. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Support for the amendments can be found in, for example, step 51n (lines 16-18, page 27 of the original English specification) and step 51q (lines 29-32, page 27) illustrated in Fig. 9; step 99h (lines 10-12, page 41) and step 99j (line 21) illustrated in Fig. 13. Applicants assert that the application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the pending claims is requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-8, 12-13 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara, US Patent No. 6,963,361 ("Kawahara") in view of Gove, US Patent No. 5,973,733 ("Gove") and in further view of newly cited Kaneda et al, US Publication No. 2002/0063779 ("Kaneda"). Applicants respectfully disagree, but Applicants amend certain claims to expedite prosecution and to clarify the patentable features.

In general, Kawahara, Gove and Kaneda does not include or contemplate all the elements of independent claims 1, 5 and 15, and further, the combination of Kingetsu and Kotaki (cited below) cannot disclose or contemplate increasing the frame rate after reducing a set resolution.

Significantly, step 51q describes that "as a result of setting the resolution to be the resolution N2 which is lower than the predetermined resolution N1, **a value of the highest speed of the frame rate is increased.**" (emphasis added; lines 29-32, page 27). Consequently, **a large applicable range of frame rate can be obtained** (lines 26-31, page 16). In particular, Fig. 5 shows a relationship between the number of pixels and the frame rate. In the claimed invention, "it is possible to substantially increase the frame rate by ... reducing the resolution at the time when the image is taken for the purpose of the correction of shaking motion, thereby **eliminating an afterimage (image degradation) which is particularly caused by an electronic correction of the shaking motion**" (emphasis added; lines 16-23, page 19).

Kingetsu discloses setting resolution as necessary based on the appropriate value for a specified exposure (column 1, line 57-62 of Kingetsu). Specifically, Kingetsu discloses that the resolution in the subscan direction, that is, the number of lines, may be reduced so that the

scanning time is limited to the allowed limit" (column 4, lines 55-65), where the allowed limit is "the longest scanning time T at which the degree of blur of the object image is within the range allowable in actual practice" (column 8, lines 34-39).

However, Kingetsu does not disclose or contemplate "a frame rate for taking the plurality of frames is increased" as recited in amended claims 1, 5 and 15. In particular, the invention disclosed in Kingetsu is limited to a line scanning camera which synthesizes the original data of two frames for obtaining a single composite frame to generate image sensing data which is recorded (column 11, lines 21-24 of Kingetsu). Therefore, Kingetsu does not disclose or contemplate increasing a frame rate (increasing the number of frames taken in a unit time). Since Kingetsu does not teach increasing frame rate, it cannot teach increasing frame rate after reducing a set resolution. Consequently, Kingetsu can not disclose or contemplate the subsequent advantages of the aforementioned feature.

Kotaki, although disclosing changing the frame rate, does not teach reduction of a set resolution. Therefore, Kotaki cannot teach or suggest increasing frame rate after reducing resolution and its associated advantages.

Since Kingetsu does not disclose or contemplate increasing the frame rate and Kotaki does not disclose or contemplate reducing a set resolution, the combination of Kingetsu and Kotaki can not disclose or contemplate increasing the frame rate after reducing a set resolution. Subsequently, the combination of Kingatsu and Kotaki also does not disclose or contemplate the associated advantages in the field of correcting camera shaking in taking static images.

Dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, and 12-13 variously depend from independent claims 1 and 5, so Applicants assert that dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, and 12-13 are differentiated from the cited references for the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to its own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects claim 9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara in view of Gove and Kaneda, and further in view of previously cited Kotaki (JP 2001-230965A). Applicants respectfully disagree, but Applicants amend certain claims to expedite prosecution and to clarify the patentable features.

Claim 9 variously depends from independent claim 5. As set forth above, Kawahara, Gove and Kaneda does not include or contemplate all the elements of claim 5, and Kotaki does not cure such deficiencies. The combination of Kingetsu and Kotaki cannot disclose or contemplate increasing the frame rate after reducing a set resolution. Moreover, claim 9 is differentiated from the cited references for the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to its own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects claim 10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara in view of Gove and Kaneda, and further in view of previously cited Kingetsu (US 6,181,379). Applicants respectfully disagree, but Applicants amend certain claims to expedite prosecution and to clarify the patentable features.

Claim 10 depends from independent claim 5. As set forth above, Kawahara, Gove and Kaneda does not include or contemplate all the elements of claim 5, and Kingetsu does not cure such deficiencies. The combination of Kingetsu and Kotaki cannot disclose or contemplate increasing the frame rate after reducing a set resolution. Moreover, claim 10 is differentiated from the cited references for the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to its own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects claim 11 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara in view of Gove and Kaneda, and further in view of previously cited Okada (US 5,502,484). Applicants respectfully disagree, but Applicants amend certain claims to expedite prosecution and to clarify the patentable features.

Claim 11 variously depends from independent claim 5. As set forth above, Kawahara, Gove and Kaneda does not include or contemplate all the elements of claim 5, and Okada does not cure such deficiencies. Moreover, claim 11 is differentiated from the cited references for the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to its own respective features.

The Examiner next rejects claim 14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawahara in view of Gove and Kaneda, and further in view of previously cited Hare (US 7,057,645). Applicants respectfully disagree, but Applicants amend certain claims to expedite prosecution and to clarify the patentable features.

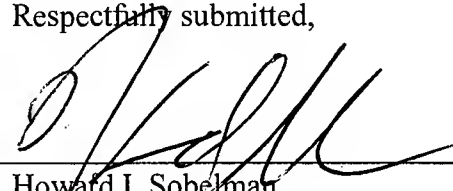
Claim 14 depends from independent claim 5. As set forth above, Kawahara, Gove and Kaneda does not include or contemplate all the elements of claim 5, and Hare does not cure such deficiencies. Moreover, claim 14 is differentiated from the cited references for the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to its own respective features.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2814. Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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